COMPLETE LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A switch comprising a generally tubular housing, and a dome member having an annular rib extending from a base of said dome member, the dome member being disposed within said housing and being elastically deformable in use, said housing having an inner annular groove for receiving said annular rib of said dome member, wherein said housing is provided with a plurality of discrete tabs disposed circumferentially around an end thereof, said tabs being movable from an open configuration in which said dome member can be introduced into said housing, and a sealed configuration in which the tabs substantially cover the base of said dome member so as to clamp said annular rib of said dome member within said annular groove and create a fluid-tight seal between said housing and said dome member.

2. (Previously Presented) A switch according to claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the dome member is received within said housing with sufficient clearance such that the at least a portion does not contact the inner wall of the housing when the dome member is deformed in use.

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/Ryan D. Levy, 58,618/

Ryan D. Levy, 58,618

3. (Previously Presented) A switch comprising a generally tubular housing, and a dome member having an annular rib extending from a base of said dome member, the dome member being disposed within said housing and being elastically deformable in use, said housing having an inner annular groove for receiving said annular rib of said dome member, wherein said housing is provided with clamping means which are movable from an open configuration in which said dome member can be introduced into said housing, and a sealed configuration in which the clamping means substantially cover the base of said dome member so as to clamp said annular rib of said dome member within said annular groove and create a fluid-tight seal between said housing and said dome member, at least a portion of the dome member being received within said housing with sufficient clearance such that the at least a portion does not contact the inner wall of the housing when the dome member is deformed in use.

4. (Previously Presented) A switch according to claim 3, wherein said clamping means comprises a plurality of discrete tabs disposed circumferentially around an end thereof, said tabs being movable from an open configuration in which said dome member can be introduced into said housing, and a sealed configuration in which the tabs substantially cover the base of said dome member so as to clamp said annular rib of said dome member within said annular groove and create a fluid-tight seal between said housing and said dome member.

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5. (Previously Presented) A switch according to claim 1, wherein said tabs are provided substantially all of the way around the circumference of an end of the housing.

6. (Previously Presented) A switch according to claim 1, wherein said tabs are substantially permanently deformable from the open configuration to the sealed configuration so as to form an annular flange covering the base of the dome member.

7. (Previously Presented) A switch according to claim 6, wherein deformation of said tabs is effected by means of heat or force.

8. (Previously Presented) A switch according to claim 1, wherein, in the sealed configuration, the tabs are substantially at right-angles to a longitudinal side wall of the housing and substantially flush with an end thereof.

9. (Previously Presented) A switch according to claim 1, wherein the inside of the housing has a wider portion shaped and configured to receive the dome member and a narrower portion leading to an aperture, a key cap being slidably engaged therein and arranged to selectively deform and release the dome member, when in use.

10. (Previously Presented) A switch according to claim 9, wherein said narrower portion of said housing is provided with one or more apertures in sidewalls thereof.

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11. (Previously Presented) A switch according to claim 1, wherein the annular groove is provided with a relatively sharp edge which corresponds to an intersection between said annular rib and the remainder of the dome member.

12. (Previously Presented) A keyboard including a plurality of switches according to claim 1.

13. (original) A keyboard according to claim 12, comprising a board member defining a plurality of such switches connected together or formed integrally with each other.

14. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing a switch, comprising providing a generally tubular housing, providing a dome member having an annular rib extending from a base of said dome member within said housing, said dome member being elastically deformable in use, said housing having an inner annular groove for receiving said annular rib of said dome member, wherein said housing is provided with a plurality of discrete tabs disposed circumferentially around an end thereof, the method further comprising moving said tabs from an open configuration in which said dome member is introduced into said housing, and a sealed configuration in which the tabs substantially cover the base of said dome member so as to clamp said annular rib of said dome member within said annular groove and create a fluid-tight seal between said housing and said dome member.

15. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing a switch, comprising providing a generally tubular housing, and providing a dome member having an annular rib extending from the base of said dome member within said housing, said dome member being elastically deformable in use, said housing having an inner annular groove for receiving said annular rib of said dome member, wherein said housing is provided with clamping means, the method further comprising moving said clamping means from an open configuration in which said dome member is introduced into said housing, and a sealed configuration in which they substantially cover the base of said dome member so as to clamp said annular rib of said dome member within said annular groove and create a fluid-tight clamping means so as to clamp said annular rib of said dome member within said annular groove and create a fluid-tight seal between said housing and said dome member, at least a portion of the dome member being received within said housing with sufficient clearance such that the at least a portion does not contact the inner wall of the housing when the dome member is deformed in use.

16-21. (canceled)

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